

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 5, 11, 14 and 18 are cancelled. Reconsideration is requested. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claim 3 is allowed. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 12 also is in condition for allowance.

This Amendment should be entered after final rejection because it merely cancels rejected claims, thereby placing this application in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,076,695 to Ichihara. This rejection is moot because claims 2 and 11 have been cancelled.

The Office Action rejects claims 5 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,076,695 to Ichihara in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,548,403 to Sommargren. This rejection is moot because claims 5 and 14 have been cancelled.

The Office Action rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,548,403 to Sommargren. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

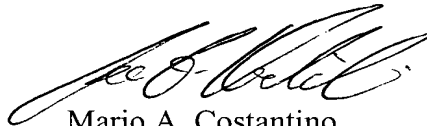
The Office Action asserts that the apparatus limitations of claim 3 do not further limit the method of claim 12. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 12 is a dependent claim, dependent upon independent claim 3. As such, claim 12 is directed to a method of using the apparatus (or product) of claim 3. Claim 12 requires that the novel and unobvious interferometer of claim 3 be used to perform the method steps of claim 12. Such claims (method of using a patentable product) are encouraged by the Patent Office, particularly as dependent claims. See, for example, MPEP 821.04 (particularly the second paragraph of this MPEP section).

Thus, the rejection of claim 12 should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 3 and 12 earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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